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ABSTRACT

The homeless crisis in America is a complex issue with no "quick fixes." In Stanislaus County, California, it seems that there are many programs operating in isolation of one another. Approximately 5% of the county's population is homeless. Homeless persons have survival needs for food and clothing, hygiene, health care, affordable housing, stability, a consistent network of support, more jobs that pay a decent wage, accessible social services, special security precautions, and temporary shelter for all who need it. The homeless also have pressing educational needs, and 16 specific areas of need are cited. In an effort to establish an environment, a homeless task force represented by all community agencies, churches, and charity organizations should be developed. All entities should collaborate to develop a total service plan. The government must adequately fund social programs to eliminate poverty. The cycle of poverty must be broken by providing the funds to adequately house, feed, and clothe the poor. The necessary follow-up interventions must be provided to give innocent children a chance for success. A concerted effort must be made to provide adequate information to all citizens concerning the causes and magnitude of the homeless problems. Public support is essential. (Services for the homeless in Stanislaus County are described; case studies are presented and examples of educational programs for homeless children are given.) (ABL)

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HOMELESS FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH IN STANISLAUS COUNTY- PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

California State University, Stanislaus
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July 18, 1991

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INTRODUCTION

Adam Smith, in his historic work on free enterprise wrote: "No society can surely be flourishing and happy when part of the members are poor and miserable. It is but equity, besides, that they be themselves well fed, clothed, and lodged" (Smith, 1776).

The age old question of whether society owes the poor the tools for economic advancement: job training, education, day care, and health services prevails today. This paper will examine the very poorest of the poor, homeless families. What has caused the appearance of families living on the streets? What are the basic needs of the homeless? What solutions can be found to alleviate the desperate plight of this segment of the population?

STATISTICS RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS

No social problem operates in isolation. Homelessness is the direct result of increased poverty. Poverty is the direct result of a complex interaction of economic conditions and social polices and pressures. Therefore, statistics related to poverty are also discussed.

The United States has the highest rate of child poverty among industrialized nations; nearly three times that of most other nations (Reed, S. and Sauter, C. 1990). According to the National Children's Defense Fund (1988), a Washington based child advocacy group, the United States and South Africa are the only advanced industrial nations who do not provide universal health care for children and pregnant women, and who do not provide childcare to enhance early development. Over 10,000 children die each year as a direct result of poverty. (Reed, S. and Sauter, C., 1990)

Approximately 35% of children living in families headed by a person 30 years or younger are poor, up from 19% in 1967. The poverty rate for a family headed by a woman is 50%; for a black woman, it is 56%; and for a hispanic woman, it is 59%. (Reed, S. and Sauter, C., 1990)

Poverty is not a phenomenon confined to the inner city. Only 9% of the poor live in America's core cities. About 17% are hidden in rural America. Amazingly, 28% live amongst the affluent in suburban communities. For example, in Westchester County, New York, one of the 11 wealthiest suburbs in America, there are 5,000 homeless people now looking for shelter. (Reed, S. and Sauter, C., 1990)

Although poverty is not directly related to race (1 in 7 white children are poor), the rate of poverty is considerably higher among minorities. Approximately 4 out of 9 black children, and 3 of 8 Hispanic children are poor (Reed, S. and Sauter, C., 1990).

Figures released by the National Coalition for the Homeless (1987) estimate that there are 3 million homeless in America, of which 500,000 to 750,000 are children. This is a 25% increase in one year. A recent survey conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors indicated that 57% of these children do not attend school regularly, and 43% do not attend school at all (Moyer, 1990).

The California State Department of Education (1990) estimates that there are 28,000 homeless children in the state on any given night. United Way of Stanislaus County (1990) reports that approximately 5% of the population in Stanislaus County is homeless. Patricia Logan, Supervisor of Pupil Services for Modesto City Schools, reported that in one month, about 109 homeless students attended Modesto City Schools in the 1989- 1990 school year.

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Several factors have directly contributed to the "homeless crisis" in America today. These include:

Lack of Affordable Housing - The major cause of homelessness is not only the lack of housing for the poor, but also the inability of the poor to pay the rent demanded by the market. An estimated 50% of American households earning less than $15,000 pay over 35% of their income for rent, and 25% pay over 60% (Zigas, 1988). In Stanislaus County, a low cost 1 bedroom apartment rents for about $350 to $400 a month. A single mother with 1 child on AFDC receives $560 a month in income according to Debra Sutnet of Stanislaus County Department of Social Services.

Lack of Available Public Housing - In 1980, homelessness among families was almost nonexistent. That year, the federal government approved 32 billion in budget authority to house the poor. In 1988, President Reagan sought just 6.9 billion. That's a decrease of 76% when adjusted for inflation (Hayes, 1989). Ruth Yates of Stanislaus County Housing Authority reports that there are currently 3,168 applicants on the waiting list for existing public housing and Section 8 Rental Agreements. This entails a waiting list of up to 3 years.

Transformation of the U.S. Economy from a manufacturing to a service based system - Service jobs pay approximately one half as much as manufacturing jobs (Reed, S. and Sautter, C., 1990).

Budget Cutbacks and Reductions - Since 1970, the median grant through AFDC has fallen 23% from $471 to $361 according to the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. In 1987, AFDC reached only 56% of children in poverty, a lower proportion than in 1964 (before the War on Poverty was started) (Reed, S. and Sautter, C., 1990).

Some families who face homelessness live in substandard conditions without insurance. *Fire or other disaster* may result in homelessness.

Precipitating Causes

There are other indirect factors which contribute to the homelessness of certain individuals and families. These may include, but are not limited to the following:

Psychiatric disturbances are common among the homeless. Among those who are chronically homeless, serious emotional or mental illness is likely (Hayes, 1989).

The use of crack (a cheap derivative of coccaine) has contributed to the incidence of homelessness among the poor who are addicted. "Rent payment and the needs of a child become secondary to the uncontrollable craving for the drug" (Hayes, 1989). The individual's ability to reason in a rational and predictable manner is affected by crack as well as other drugs such as alcohol, marijuana, and heroine.

The high incidence of drug abuse has complicated and biased public opinion. For example, children begging in the street of New York City were labeled by Mayor Kochs as "decoys to help fund maternal crack habits" (Hayes, 1989).

In analyzing the causes and precipitating events that result in homelessness, it is easy to pass judgement. The debate between social responsibility and individual freedom is age old and can never be resolved. Could the drug addicted homeless mother have avoided pregnancy and drug use? It certainly seems that she had that choice. Yet does that alleviate her current situation or that of her child? Despite the mistakes of the past, all human beings deserve the chance for a better existence.

CASE EXAMPLES OF HOMELESS CHILDREN

Through my role as an elementary counselor in a school which provides educational services to children from a local shelter, I have worked with numerous homeless youth and their families. The following case studies are illustrative of their desperate situations.

Janie is a 13 year caucasian female in the sixth grade. She is living in the Modesto Inn with her mother and brother, age 8. She spent a short amount of time living under the Ninth St. bridge (in Modesto) after her mother's boyfriend "kicked them out". Janie has attended 8 schools in her educational career and has missed nearly one full year of school. Janie dresses fairly nicely and is clean and neat. She says she appreciates the clothing she has received at the Inn and likes taking a shower. At the beginning of our encounters, she is polite and has a positive outlook. Janie's previous counselor (at her last school) gives me a different picture of her. The counselor describes Janie as angry, disruptive, and very unkept.

Janie is accepted by her peers until she is caught stealing money from a classmate. Then she begins to change. She expresses violent anger directed towards her mother, displays severe mood swings, and initiates conflicts with classmates. Her appearance deteriorates as her attire changes to torn jeans and a black teeshirt which is her constant companion. Her hygiene is poor, and her make-up is untastefully applied.

Janie moved in with her grandmother after leaving the Modesto Inn. She had been referred to the Student Study Team for assessment of academic achievement and intellectual ability. She left Enslen School before this process was completed.

A followup call to Janie's new school indicated that she was having some trouble adjusting. When I called two months later, she had moved again. A forwarding address was not available, and records had not been requested.

Sam is an 8 year old black male in the first grade. Sam's mother, Sue, comes to talk to me when she enrolls Sam. She proceeds to tell me about her drug addiction to heroine, and that she is pregnant. She is living in her van and is attempting to find shelter in the Modesto Inn. Sue was an abused child who lived in foster homes most of her life. She married when she was 16 and divorced at age 18. She is now seeking support from her natural father (in the form of food and childcare). Sue says she wants to "get clean and straighten up her life". Referrals are made to begin treatment of the substance abuse problem. Sue wants to try outpatient services because of her obligations to Sam. Sue follows through initially but then loses motivation.

Sam displays antisocial behavior in the classroom: defiance, poor anger control, and inappropriate gestures. His academic progress is well below average. When in counseling, Sam talks about the new house he will soon have with the big back yard, a puppy, and a new brother to play with. He never mentions family problems.

Michael is a ten year old caucasian male in the fourth grade who lives at the Modesto Inn with his mother and brother, age 13. Michael was referred by his previous school to a Psychiatric Health Center for assessment of severe depression. He was subsequently referred to Mental Health for the initiation of treatment, but Michael's mother did not follow through with this recommendation.

Michael is unable to remain in his classroom due to severe anxiety attacks. Michael's appearance is ghastly. His coloring is very pale, almost transparent; he has many warts on his arms, and hands; his body tone is very soft; and he has a persistent cough. His hygiene is very poor.

Michael's mother is persuaded to meet me at Mental Health where we arrange for family counseling services, and his medical needs are met through the West Modesto Medical Clinic. Michael's mother misses the first appointment at Mental Health but attends the next one.

In counseling, Michael expresses feelings of depression. Two years before, he had a nice house in Oakdale with a backyard to play in. His mother and father (who were never married)

separated, and his father refused to acknowledge the family. After two weeks, Michael begins to adjust to Enslen School and is able to remain in class. Michael is placed in a support group to learn social skills. He is making substantial progress when he leaves Enslen School after 30 days.

Followup indicated that Michael and his family moved in with his Uncle and Aunt. He is currently attending another Modesto City School where he has been for two months. His teacher indicated that he is still having some difficulty, but that she sees progress. Michael is still receiving counseling services at Mental Health.

NEEDS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH

In assessing the needs of homeless children and their families, consideration has been given to 1) needs assessments conducted by the California State Department of Education (1989) and United Way of Stanislaus County (1990), 2) concerns addressed in numerous publications which are listed in the attached bibliography, and 3) my own personal experiences with homeless youth and their families. These needs are divided into two categories: survival and educational. It should be noted that in most cases, the survival needs must be met before the individual can function successfully in an educational setting.

Survival Needs

Food and clothing - The majority of homeless individuals are deprived of proper clothing and nourishment.

Hygiene - Many homeless have no place to wash themselves or their clothes. Elimination also becomes a problem.

Health care

a) Infectious diseases run rampant in homeless shelters.

b) There is a high incidence of unsanitary conditions in substandard housing. Often, no indoor plumbing or running water is available.

c) Because of the conditions in which the homeless live, they are often unclean. This increases the spread of germs and disease.

d) Homeless pregnant women lack prenatal care. As a result, many homeless infants die or are born with health problems.

e) Many homeless families have no health insurance. Therefore, they do not receive health care. Approximately one half of the poor children in America don't benefit from medicaid (Reed, S. and Sautter, C., 1990)

Affordable Housing - There is a deperate shortage of affordable housing as was discussed earlier.

Stability, continuity - Homeless families are always on the move. The absense of "roots" causes severe stress and fatigue.

A consistent network of support - An extensive research project in Boston (Bassuk, G. and Rosenberg, M., 1988) found that what was distinctive of homeless people was more the lack of an informal network of support (family, friends) than the traits of the individual. Research projects in Chicago, Minneapoles, and New York have found unusually high incidence of foster care in case histories of single, homeless men (Sussar et al, 1987).

More blue collar and service jobs that pay a decent wage- As was previously discussed, many of the unskilled jobs available today do not pay enough to meet basic survival needs.

Social services - such as family counseling, social skill building, organized recreation, job training, and day care.

Centralization of social services - Health care and the services listed above should be located in one central area.

Special security precautions - Some parents are afraid to let their children venture out due to dangers imposed by drug dealers, gang members, and child abductors who inhabit the areas surrounding shelters.

Easy access to social services - Currently, there is often a maze of paperwork and red tape to complete before services are provided. There are often waiting periods before counseling is available. In some cases, phone numbers of shelters or charity organizations are answered by machines. Social programs need to operate in collaboration rather than in isolation.

Adequate temporary shelter for all homeless individuals - There is currently a severe shortage of shelter for the homeless in Stanislaus County.

Educational Needs

Transportation from the shelter to the school - Since homeless children are often spread throughout a city, transporting them to a central school or to a school of their choice can be a problem.

Transferring of school records - Parents often do not inform schools of their moves so sending schools do not know where to transfer records. Consequently, new teachers must assess achievement levels without records.

Health records are often not intact - Most state laws prohibit school attendance without immunization records, but local educators have been forced to become more liberal. Homeless children may end up having to be reimmunized.

Parenting classes and parent support groups - to stress the importance of education, involve parents in educational process, and train them in parenting skills.

Counseling services - Emphasis should be placed an self esteem building, coping, and social skills.

Better coordination between school and community agencies is needed. Often services are fragmented and repetitive because there is no system established to communicate efficiently.

Staff inservice is necessary to promote a greater understanding of the special needs and conditions of homeless families.

Curriculum alterations - Shorter instructional units to allow for transitory behavior may be used.

Equal and nondiscriminatory education - Homeless children do not easily fit into a regular classroom and are often discriminated against by both teachers and students.

AIDS and Drug Education - Homeless children are at a high risk of being affected by AIDS and/or drug abuse.

Assessment and placement in special programs as needed - Homeless children also may be drug exposed children or learning disabled. Although it is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss the special needs of these two groups, it is imperative that they receive specialized services. Transitory behavior often prohibits this from occurring.

Extended day and tutorial services - Many homeless children do not have a quiet place to study and may need extra help in completing assignments. They may also need care and recreation after school.

Extra curricular activities - Homeless children need to participate in activities outside of school. This helps to build social skills and self-esteem.

Stable school environment - A system needs to be developed to discourage transitory behavior and promote continuity whenever possible.

Attendance - Homeless children need to be in school. Strict and consistent enforcement of attendance policies is vital.

Provisions for schools to meet survival needs where applicable and necessary - It should be recognized that a homeless child's primary concern is often survival, not education. A child cannot learn if he is hungry, tired, or overwhelmed with family problems. If schools are to educate these students, they must also address these needs. Some of the survival needs which the school might focus on include:

a) a breakfast program
b) health care - dental and medical
c) family counseling and crisis intervention

SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

Services which may be needed can be divided into the following categories: food, clothing, housing, health, child care, counseling and support services, employment education and training, financial, health, legal, transportation, drug and alcohol services, and recreation. Although an extensive resource guide intended specifically for the homeless population is certainly a need, it is not within the scope of this project. A limited resource guide is included in the appendix. Homeless individuals should be directed to Stanislaus County Department of Social Services (209) 525-6618 for referral to the appropriate programs. Individuals may also contact Community Temporary Shelter Service (209) 523-7577 or Stanislaus Homeless Health Project, West Modesto Medical Clinic (209) 576-2845.

The following services were investigated. The addresses and phone numbers of these programs can be found in the appendix.

Community Temporary Shelter Services- An overview of the programs that this service provides is included in the appendix of this paper. One component, "Shelter Service for Families with Dependant Children", was explored in depth.

Diana Olson, coordinator and administrator of Community Temporary Shelter Service, reported that Modesto Inn houses homeless families receiving AFDC for a 28 day transitionary period. Clients work with a case manager to develop a plan for permanent housing.

Health care is provided at the Modesto Inn on Wednesdays by the West Modesto Medical Clinic. The West Modesto Health Clinic, coordinated by Jill Marie Purdy, also provides a play group for the youth who live at the Modesto Inn. The play group includes crafts, games, a nutritional snack, and fun lessons in health, hygiene, esteem building, and drug awareness. It is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in room 103 of the Modesto Inn.

The Modesto Inn houses up to 30 families on AFDC. The rooms are clean and well maintained. However, families of up to 8 to 10 members are housed in one room with no

cooking facilities.

On a given night, the "Just Kids" program may serve up to 25 children at a time in one tiny room. The room is brightly decorated and the volunteer staff is very enthusiastic and nurturing. However, overcrowding and lack of venilation is a concern.

Modesto Women's Gospel Mission is an emergency shelter for women and children. Food and clothing are also supplied. Referrals are not necessary to receive services, and individuals are allowed to occupy the Mission day and night.

It is funded by private donations and is a nondenominational Christian organization. While staying at the shelter, individuals are encouraged to participate in religious activities and to learn about the Christian faith.

There is a 15 person capacity although 22 persons were occupying the mission at the time of my visit. Clients can stay at the facility for up to 2 weeks although special arrangements are sometimes made.

The facility consists of a family room, a kitchen, a dining room, 2 family bedrooms, 2 single bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a combination office/playroom. The building is in need of repair and remodeling.

The staff consists of 2 paid employees; the director, LaVerne Cox and the housemother, Pam Carlson; and five volunteer "disciples". The disciples live at the mission and work for food and shelter.

The Haven, Stanislaus Women's Refuge Center is an emergency shelter for battered women and their children. All women who ask for help will be serviced. This is a United Way Agency which is funded by private donations and grants. Victims may stay for a maximum of 30 days. Services include 24 hour crisis intervention, counseling, and legal services. The Haven has recently merged with the Women's Center. Irene Westbury is the Executive Director.

Turlock Tything Place is a homeless shelter for individuals and families. This facility provides food, clothing, and referrals to other agencies. Numerous attempts were made to contact this shelter, but a personal connection was never made.

Interfaith Ministeries provides food, clothing, and support for homeless individuals. This program is funded by donations from Christian churches throughout Stanislaus County and by United Way.

Salvation Army offers many services including food, shelter, clothing, and referral services. It is a United Way Agency and is funded by private donations.

Stanislaus Homeless Health Project, West Modesto Medical Clinic- Project Coordinator Jill Marie Purdy reported that this service, funded by federal grant, provides medical treatment on a daily basis at local shelters. Clinic locations and times of service are listed in the appendix. This project also sponsors the "Just Kids" program described earlier.

Stanislaus County Housing Authority provides housing assistance to low income families, including subsidized housing. Administrator Ruth Yates named 4 programs which are included in the Housing Authority System- a) Section8 Rental Assistance through the private sector which is privately funded, b) housing owned by the Housing Authority, funded primarily by HUD, c) farm labor programs, funded by the Farmers Home Administration, and d) the migrant program which is available from May 1 through October and is state funded.

Numerous churches offer direct services to the homeless. These include but are not limited to:

A. *Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church* holds Mass and offers counseling service under the Ninth St. Bridge in Modesto on Thursday Mornings. Also, food vouchers and clothing are distributed through the St. Vincent de Paul Society (524-7421).

B. *St. Paul's Episcopal Church* ministers through the Gospel Missions. They provide needed services such as food, clothing, and shelter to individual families.

C. *The First Baptist Church* provides dinner every Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. for the residents of the Modesto Inn.

There is no coordinated interdenominational effort to provide a total service program to the homeless.

RECENT LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

The Stewart B McKinney Homeless Assistance Act allocated 1.7 billion to be used to service the homeless in America (Reed, S. and Sauter, C., 1990). The funds are distributed through grants to cities, counties, and/or private sectors who have a comprehensive homeless plan (Hess, M. and Goldor, E., 1990).

Subtitle B of the Stewart B. McKinney Act provided 4.6 million dollars to establish a two year federal grant program calling for each state department of education to begin an office of coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Responsibilities would include 1) gathering statewide data for the U.S. Department of Education on the number and school attendance rates of homeless children, and 2) writing a state plan for educating homeless children (Wells, 1990). Grants will be awarded for "exemplary programs that successfully address the needs of homeless students in elementary and secondary schools of the applicant" (California State Department of Education, 1989).

In addition, Subtitle B prohibits schools from using permanent residence requirements to exclude homless students from attending schools. Rules regarding guardianship must be waived for homeless students living with foster parents or relatives other than the legal guardian (California State Department of Education, 1989).

An Affordable Housing Act which would provide 1.5 billion dollars a year until 7.5 million units of low cost housing are created nationwide was considered in 1988 by the United States legislature (Weiss, 1988). The status of this bill is unknown.

THE HELPING PROFESSIONAL'S ROLE IN WORKING WITH HOMELESS FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The following are suggestions which have been compiled with the assistance of several resources as well as through my own personal experiences.

Develop a trusting nonjudgemental relationship - Although this is a necessary component of any helping relationship, it is especially critical with the homeless who have experienced much rejection and discrimination.

Establish rapport with parents as well as children - To truely understand and meet the needs of a child, you must have the parent's confidence and support.

Avoid probing questions- The homeless are very sensitive about their situation and consider intrusion to be very offensive.

Serve as an advocate - Advocacy means "speaking out" on behalf of another person. Homeless individuals face many roadblocks in gaining services necessary to meet basic needs. Helping professionals play a vital role when they assist homeless individuals in receiving services which they are entitled to by law.

If you know that your time with the individual is limited, work with community agencies to establish a long term network of support.

Encourage group interaction and participation whenever it is appropriate. Because of their lifestyle, most homeless children lack social skills, and need to learn to cooperate with others. However, not all homeless children will find group counseling to be a rewarding and successful experience. In this case, counseling may begin individually and progress to a group setting.

Enpower rather than enable - Homeless individuals will sometimes make excuses for failing to take action. For example, a homeless mother may indicate that she can't go to her counseling appointment at a community agency because she has no transportation. She asks you (the school counselor) to take her. An empowering action would be to give her the route and location of the nearest bus and to offer to meet her at the agency.

EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

Two educational models are predominent; the "segregated" model and the "mainstream" model. The "segregated" program is typically located near a shelter and may be funded by the local school district or through a private nonprofit organization. The "mainstream" model is within the regular school. The "segregated" model usually provides shortterm placement, while the mainstreamed model may allow for a more permanent and stable educational setting.

Segregated Models

San Diego, California - The Kroc Center School is located across the street from the St. Vincent de Paul Joan Kroc Center, a transitional housing project. San Diego County Schools operate a full educational program for school age children living in the shelter. Meals are provided at the Center, and school attendance is mandatory. The Kroc Center funds an after school program for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. Services include recreational activities, tutoring, and help with homework. (California State Department of Education, 1989).

Tacoma, Washington - This school at the YWCA shelter services children from four area shelters. Tacoma School District finances two full-time teachers and an instructional aid. Private grants provide a parttime counselor, a social worker, and a nurse. The school philosophy centers around "taking care of belly needs before mind needs". Since the opening of the school in 1988, 150 students have attended (Moyer, 1990).

The advantages of the segregated program are: 1) it allows for specialized instruction to better meet individual needs, 2) there may be more ease in adjusting to a setting with other children from a similar socioeconomic background, 3) social services (such as counseling and health care) are often provided at such a school, 4) self esteem is often increased because students see success through the individualized program tailored to meet their needs, and 5) it may be too traumatic for homeless children to attend a regular school. They may be teased and discriminated against.

Mainstreamed Models

Boston, Massachusetts - Shelly Jackson, attorney for the Center for Law and Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts feels that modifying the regular school structure to meet the needs of the homeless child or youth is the answer. He states the need to "create a situation where homeless students can go to the public school of their choice and be treated with respect" (Moyer, 1990). In Boston, Mass., the "controlled choice plan" of 1981 allows its students, including homeless ones, to attend any public school in the district (Moyer, 1990).

The *New York* Board of Regents adopted a regulation in May, 1988 allowing homeless parents to choose the school which their child attended (Moyer, 1990).

Oakland, California - The Oakland Salvation Army Family Shelter has arranged with the Oakland United School District for students living at the shelter to attend the same school (as before their move). Children take the city bus to school using passes provided by the Salvation Army. Adults are also given bus tickets if the child is too young to ride the bus alone. An after school recreation and study program is conducted by the Salvation Army (California State Department of Education, 1989).

The advantages of mainstreaming students into the regular school structure are 1) stability and continuity are made possible, 2) parents are empowered to choose their child's school, 3) it encourages equal educational opportunity and discourages segregation, 4) it promotes the development of social skills, and 5) it discourages transitory habits.

Modesto City Schools Homeless Program

Currently, homeless students in Modesto attend the school closest to their temporary shelter. No special services or arrangements are made for these students at this time. An outline of the proposed program is included in the appendix.

SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF HOMELESS FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH

Solutions to Survival Problems

The homeless crisis in America is a complex issue with no "quick fixes". Kim Hopper (1989), in her article concerning the plight of the homeless with drug and alcohol problems, suggested that "environments" not "programs" need to be created. These environments must be capable of supporting individuals and families during and after interventions. Components might include a family literacy program, drug and alcohol treatment, child care, tutoring, and health care.

In Stanislaus County, it seems that there are many programs operating in isolation of each other. In an effort to establish an environment, a homeless task force represented by all community agencies, churches, and charity organizations should be developed. All entities should collaborate to develop a total service plan. A flowchart illustrating the steps which a homeless individual must take to receive assistance along with phone numbers and contact people would be a valuable asset. All social services should be centrally located and easily accessible. Social services should include all those identified previously in the needs assessment. Stanislaus County should take advantage of any money available through the McKinney Act and write the grant(s) necessary to receive funding.

Legislation must play a vital role in alleviating the homeless crisis. The government must adequately fund social programs to eliminate poverty. We must break the "cycle of poverty" by providing the funds to adequately house, feed, and clothe our poor. Then we must provide the necessary follow up interventions to give innocent children a chance for success. The Children's Defense Fund (1988) estimates (based on 1987 figures) that it would cost $17.22 billion to eliminate child poverty, $26.87 billion to eliminate poverty in families with children, and $51.46 billion to eliminate all poverty. To put these figures into perspective, the United States government spent $325 billion to bail out the saving and loan industry (Reed, S. and Sauter, C., 1990)

Lastly, a concerted effort must be made to provide adequate information to all citizens concerning the causes and magnitude of the homeless problem. Public support is essential.

Although segragated schools may be necessary on a shortterm basis when homeless children are in crisis or in temporary shelter, mainstreaming coupled with the necessary special services, provides the most equal and appropriate education for homeless children and youth.

Allowing the parents to choose their school would reduce the transitory behavior which creates such havoc for teachers and students alike. To provide social services in the most cost effective manner, certain schools might be targeted to house specialized programs, and parents may be encouraged to select these particular schools.

The schools and community agencies must develop a strong communication line so that referrals are received and processed in an efficient manner. School and community must collaborate to meet the needs of the families who serviced.

Lastly, school attendance must become a top priority. All those who serve the homeless must ensure that the children are attending school. The schools must actively seek out and bring students to the classroom. Truancy cannot be ignored.

CONCLUSION

All Americans must acknowledge and own the deteriorating conditions which so many of our families live in. They must realize that "homelessness" is only a symptom of the poverty which has become so prevalent in the past ten years. A new "war on poverty" must be declared. A commitment to a dignified existence for all Americans must be made.

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Yates, Ruth, *Administration*, Stanislaus County Housing Authority, Modesto, California, April, 1991.

Community
Temporary
Shelter
Service

Program Summary

The following shelter and program components offer an overview of the programs and services that the Community Temporary Shelter Service of Stanislaus County provides:

SHELTER AND HOUSING SERVICES

Emergency Shelter Program
Provides emergency shelter from one to seven days for those families, seniors and individuals who are facing a crisis situation and who are homeless.

On-Call Shelter Program -
Provides on-call services by a social worker to meet the needs of persons in crisis during nights and weekends.

Mentally Ill Homeless Program -
Contracts with the Department of Mental Health to provide shelter and social services to those who are mentally ill and homeless.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children Homeless Program
Contracts with the Department of Social Services to provide AFDC families with up to 28 days of shelter.

State Emergency Shelter Program -
Contracts with the State of California to provide shelter to those families who do not qualify for other programs by providing up to 90 days of shelter.

Winter Shelter (Emergency) -
In agreement with the Stanislaus County Emergency Services Office, provides overflow shelter when weather is 40° or below or when raining.

Renters Assistance Program -
Contracts with the State of California to provide one-time payment of rent. This is utilized to pay clients rent to avoid eviction. The program will target individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Transitional Housing -
Will contract with the City of Modesto to provide case management services and placement services in transitional housing for a six to twelve month period.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Case Management

Addresses the deeper client need which has initially brought them to the point of crisis. By providing long range services, follow-up and supportive services, we can help the family to become independent and self-sufficient. Case Management is an integral and crucial component, if any success is to be reached in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Many homeless people lack sufficient knowledge and skill to enable them to access services designed to maintain them in housing or beneficial treatment programs. Some are unable to cope with social systems already set in place to meet their needs., In these and other problem areas, a Social Worker/Case Manager would benefit those persons who are in need of help by assisting them in accessing programs and services which can meet their specific needs.

Information & Referral

Offers direction support and guidance to clients. Assists with, or eliminates, crisis situations or other problems a homeless individual or family may face. This program identifies existing homeless services and resources, including those of the Community Temporary Shelter Service which may provide additional help.

Counseling

Counseling is "person centered" rather than "problem centered." Most homeless families and individuals experience social, economic and/or emotional problems which interfere with a normal healthy existence. These persons can often be helped through our counseling program. This program helps such persons to mobilize their personal resources, tap their inner strengths and utilize existing community services to cope with their problems.

Medical Services

Community Temporary Shelter Services works with the Stanislaus Homeless Health Project. CTSS has arranged for a medical case management room at the Modesto Inn where a medical clinic for homeless families is offered weekly.

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS
PROPOSED EDUCATION PROGRAM
FOR
HOMELESS STUDENTS

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

. Serve children ages 5-12 (K-6th grade) in one classrooom -- a one room schoolhouse concept

. Transportation - van pick-up services at motels and other places where homeless children reside

. Average daily enrollment -- 20-25 students

. Pupil Records -- clerical assistance to develop mandatory pupil information

Passport File: Cum record
Immunization record
Birth verification

II. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION

. Social skill development

. Readiness skills

. AIDS education -- Stan. Community AIDS Project -- no charge

. Literature-based curriculum -- short stories that can be read in just a few days.

III. SUPPORT SERVICES

. Counseling services: 1-1, small group, classroom presentations -- Center for Human Services

. Dental screening and treatment -- Westside Medical Clinic -- beginning 1991 -- no charge

. Breakfast program

. Volunteer tutors from MJC, CSUS, retired teachers -- no charge

. Training program for volunteers every 6-8 weeks -- Westside Medical Clinic Director, Jill Marie Purdy -- no charge

- YMCA afterschool recreation program -- YMCA, etc.
- Weekly report cards
- Student binder
- Juvenile Justice representative signs as guardian for students who need medical treatment if no parent or no emergency number is available.
- Daily home/school progress reports
- Referrals to community agencies for donated clothing and shoes:
  Shoes - Red Cross
  Clothing - Community Clothes Closet
- CHDP Clinic on Wheels - one time per week -- according to age interval and eligibility schedule -- no charge
- Parent Support Groups
- CTSS - Community Temporary Shelter Services Case Manager to liaison with school staff regarding information and referrals to community agencies.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS

Sacramento, California

I. **Mustard Seed** - private school for homeless children.
Merrihill - program for homeless mothers.
Privately funded by Loaves & Fishes.
No government funding.
Serves children ages 5-18.
Average stay -- 8 days
75% of the homeless students attending Mustard Seed are **crisis homeless.**
Reasons for crisis homelessness:

a. Increased rent
b. Fire
c. Domestic violence
d. Condemned building
e. Temporarily living with friends

25% of homeless students attending Mustard Seed are **chronic homeless.**
Chronic homelessness is a way of life.

Curriculum/Instruction

AIDS education -- once every two weeks
Dental screening -- 2 sequential days each week
Field trips
Breakfast program
Staffed by volunteers
Volunteer training every 6-8 weeks
Social skill development
Readiness skills
A secure, safe place to play and learn
Transportation: Van pick-up services at motels

II. **Parker School** -- public school for homeless children

Funded by Sacramento City Unified School District/Sacramento County Office of Education/So. Area Emergency Housing Center.

District funds: teacher, nurse, furniture, classroom supplies, custodial services

Sacramento Co. Office of Education funds: educational supplies and materials.

So. Area Emergency Housing Center funds: building, tutors, clerical assistance for completion of school enrollment forms.

$10,000 start-up fee from lottery
10 x 20 trailer "on-grounds" classroom for homeless children, grades 1-8 whose parents reside at the shelter.
Average length of stay -- 2-4 weeks
Average daily enrollment -- 8-12 students
California State University, Sacramento social work student interns provide tutoring services
Local pediatrician provides medical care

Curriculm/Instruction

Structure **not** discipline
Positive reinforcement
Parents are not allowed to work in the classroom or chaperone field trips
Passport file: cum records/health innoculation records/birth verification records.
Weekly report cards
All students receive a student binder
Daily home/school progress reports
Student store of donated items
Parent support groups
Open house every other Friday
CHDP clinic on wheels "COW" services
One room school house approach
Literature based curriculum -- short stories that can be read in just a few days

III. Dyer-Kelly Public School

3 schools:

a. Neighborhood school
b. Bilingual school
c. Newcomers school

The Newcomers School primarily serves students who live in motels on Arden Way
Two Newcomers classrooms: 2nd - 3rd; 5th - 6th
Average enrollment in Newcomers class: 25 students
Breakfast program
Students are taught both academic and socialization skills
Counseling one time per week
Pot Luck dinners for parents
Parent/student "make it and take it" nights
Juvenile Justice signs as guardian for students who need medical treatment if no parent and no emergency number is available

FREE SERVICES

MEALS: Breakfast - Gospel Mission, 1417 DeHarro at 6:25 am Mon. - Fri.
Lunch - Salvation Army, 625 I St. 12:15 pm Mon. - Fri.
Dinner - Gospel Mission, 1417 DeHarro at 7:30 pm Mon. - Fri.

WASH/DRY: Sunshine Place, 722 I St. (1 load per day) first come first serve, Mon. - Fri. 9 - 1:30 pm.
SHOWER: Sunshine Place, soap, towels, and washcloths.

Available for recreation are: cards, games, pool table, ping pong, tv, sport games, outings etc.

FREE HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS

The West Modesto Medical Clinic
provides free medical services to homeless families and individuals at the following locations and times.

MONDAY: Salvation Army, 12 - 3 pm
TUESDAY: Salvation Army, 12 - 3 pm
Mens Mission, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
WEDNESDAY: Modesto Inn, 1 - 4 pm
THURSDAY: Salvation Army, 12 - 3 pm
Mens Mission, 5:30 -7:30pm

AIDS INFORMATION AND TESTING

Testing and information is available by contacting the Medical Social Worker or calling 576-2845

FREE CARE PACKETS

Care packets contain soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, razor, shaving creme, shampoo etc. The packets are provided FREE by West Modesto Medical Clinic and Modesto Covenant Church. Packets may be picked up onThursdays at 6:30pm at The Gospel Mission (first come first serve basis).

SERVICIOS GRATIS

COMIDA: Desayuno - La Mission, 1417 DeHarro a las 6:25 am Lunes - Domingo.
Almuerzo - Salvation Army, 625 calle I a las 12:15pm Lunes - Viernes.
Cena - La Mission, 1417 DeHarro a las 7:30pm Lunes a Domingo.
LAVANDERIA: Sunshine Place, 722 calle I de las 9 - 1:30pm Lunes - Viernes.
BANOS: Sunshine Place, 722 calle I. Hay jabon y toallas para su uso.

Tambien hay para recreo en Sunshine Place, juego de bomba, billar, ping pong, tv, juegos de deporte, excursiones, y mas.

GRATIS -- SERVICIOS MEDICO PARA PERSONA SIN CASA

West Modesto Medical Clinic
provee servicio medico a las personas y familias sin casa en las siguientes localidades y horas.

LUNES: Salvation Army, 12 - 3pm
MARTES: Salvation Army, 12 - 3pm
La Mission, 5:30 - 7:30pm
MIERCOLES: Modesto Inn, 1- 4pm
JUEVES: Salvation Army, 12 - 3pm
La Mission, 5:30 -7:30pm

INFORMACCION Y EXAMEN SOBRE EL SIDA

Para informacion venga a una de nuestras clinicas o llame al 576-2845 para una cita.

BOLSA DE COSAS PERSONALES

Cada Jueves a las 6:30pm se da una bolsa de cosas personales (jabon, rastrillo, champu, etc.) de parete de la clinica medica y la Iglesia Covenant. El limite es una por mes.

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YOUTH RESOURCES

Yellow Pages

JUVENILE JUSTICE

California Youth Authority 576-6250
Juvenile Court 525-4590
Juvenile District Attorney 525-4599
Juvenile Hall 525-4578
Juvenile Traffic Court Clerk 525-4575
Probation Department 525-5400

OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES

Big Brother/ Big Sister 523-7166
Child Care Resource and Referral 525-5049
Community Hospice/ VIA (Specialize in Bereavement 577-0615
Dial-A-Ride ...Modesto.....527-4900.....Ceres ..522-3225....Turlock 668-5600
E. Ross Clark Home for Children, Inc. 526-5371
Friends Outside (Child With Incarcerated Parent) 522-2209
Housing Authority 523-0705
Interfaith Ministries (Emergency Food & Clothing) 572-3117
Intracity Bus - Modesto 521-1274
Mental Health Education/ Prevention 558-7454
Minor Marriages - Information 558-6419
Parenting Class Information 525-7454
Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians Support Group 578-3694
SARB (School Attendance Review Board) 525-8444
Society for Handicapped Children & Adults 524-3536
Stanislaus County Transit -
Modesto to Turlock, Riverbank & Oakdale 1-800-262-1516
Tything Place - Turlock (Food & Clothing) 634-9941
Youth Employment Program 576-4161

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

California Rural Legal Assistance 577-3811
Emancipation of Minors (County Clerk) 525-6416
Lawyers Referral Service 523-7853

Updated 4/91

CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

YOUTH AND FAMILY INTERVENTION

Telephone Numbers and Resources accurate as of date of Printing April 1991.

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Teen Line

1-800-TLC-TEEN
(California)

CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES
1700 McHenry Village Way, Suite 11B
Modesto, CA 95350 Phone: (209) 526-1440

YOUTH RESOURCES
TEEN LINE 1-800-TLC-TEEN PEER HELP LINE

Telephone Numbers and Resources accurate as of date of Printing Winter 1991.

CRISIS SERVICES

All Emergencies....911
Children's Crisis Center (24 Hour Hotline).....577-4413
Child Protective Services (Physical/Sexual Abuse of Minors).....578-5663
Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Team.....525-7454
Hutton House - Center for Human Services
(Family Crises/ Runaway Shelter - 24 Hour Hotline).....526-5544
MECA (Crisis/Psychological Evaluation - 24 Hour Hotline).....525-6227
Modesto Gospel Mission (Women, Girls, & Boys under 12 yrs.).....571-3170
Modesto Gospel Mission (Overnight, Older Boys Only).....529-8259
Parents United (Support Group/ Counseling Re: Sexual Abuse).....529-6767
Poison Control (24 Hour Hotline).....1-800-342-9293
Rape Crisis Line (24 Hour Hotline).....527-5558
Salvation Army.....523-7577
Stanislaus Women's Refuge Center "Haven" (24 Hour Hotline).....577-5980

COUNSELING SERVICES

enter for Human Services.....526-1440
Crossroads Psychiatric Health Center.....526-4500
Family Intervention (Sierra Vista Children's Center).....521-7668
Family Service Agency.....524-6371
Family Service Agency - Turlock.....667-0864
Modesto Psychiatric Center (MPC).....524-4888
Sierra Vista Children's Center.....523-4573
Stanislaus County Mental Health (Information).....525-7423
Modesto Central.....558-7472
Modesto North.....558-7472
Ceres.....5[illegible]-0913
Eastside - Oakdale.....[illegible]7-5917
Patterson.....89[illegible]-5787
Turlock.....632-7524

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Alcoholics Anonymous (Answering Service).....575-7072
Alcoholics Anonymous - Al-Anon - Ala-Teen (Turlock).....632-1338
Al/Anon - Ala/Teen (Recorded List of Meetings).....531-0254
Alcohol Treatment Program.....525-6243
Chemical Dependency Program (Turlock).....668-4357
Center for Human Services
(Prevention & Early Intervention, Information & Referral).....526-1440
Friday Night Live - S.A.D.D. (Students Against Drunk Driving).....558-7454
Narcotics Anonymous.....526-1817
Reality (Detox Program Scenic General Hosp.).....525-6243
Recovery Resources.....537-6411
Starting Point (Scenic General Hosp.).....525-6243
Substance Abuse Services (Outpatient).....558-7460

HEALTH SERVICES

AIDS (Stanislaus County AIDS Project).....572-AIDS
Planned Parenthood.....579-2300
Scenic General Hospital (Family Practice Clinic).....525-5666
Stanislaus County Public Health
Administration.....525-7301
Family Planning Clinic.....525-5312
STD Clinic.....525-7332
Teen Prenatal Clinic.....558-7408
Family Life Program
(Social Support-Pregnant/Parenting Teens).....558-7408
Supplemental Food Program (WIC).....558-7377

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ceres Police Department.....538-5712
Hughson Police Department.....883-4052
Modesto Police Department.....572-9500
Newman Police Department.....862-2902
Oakdale Police Department.....847-2231
Patterson Police Department.....892-5071
Riverbank Police Department.....869-2562
SCDEU (Stanislaus County Drug Enforcement Unit).....526-6300
Sheriff's Office.....525-6448
Turlock Police Department.....668-5550
Waterford Police Department.....874-2349